

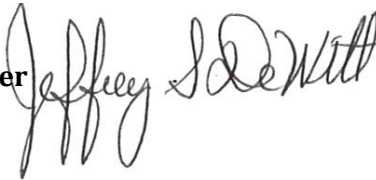
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**Jeffrey S. DeWitt**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** February 22, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – School Attendance Clarification Amendment Act of 2015

**REFERENCE:** Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 17, 2016

---

**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill modifies<sup>1</sup> school absenteeism policies, annual student census requirements, and clarifies agency responsibilities with regards to school attendance. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires a parent or a guardian of a minor to provide a valid absence excuse within five days after a student returns to school;
- Prohibits a school from using expulsion and out-of-school suspension to discipline students for unexcused absences or late arrival to school;
- Specifies that students cannot be unenrolled from a school due to an unexcused absence or late arrival to school unless they accumulate 15 or more consecutive unexcused absences;
- Requires each independent, private, and parochial school to file an annual report with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) that lists the name, address, sex, and date of birth for every enrolled or withdrawn student that resides in the District;
- Requires OSSE to publish an annual report on the state of student absenteeism in the District;

---

<sup>1</sup> By amending Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013, effective September 19, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-17; D.C. Official Code § 38-201 *et seq.*)

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "School Attendance Clarification Amendment Act of 2015," Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 17, 2016

- Requires law enforcement officers to return students to their school if the school is located in the District and requires law enforcement officers to take minors to the District of Columbia Public Schools placement office if they are not enrolled in school;
- Repeals the requirement that educational institutions notify MPD when a student accumulates 10 unexcused absences during a school year;
- Clarifies that only full school day unexcused absences count towards Child and Family Services and Court Social Services referral requirements; and,
- Grants schools discretion with regard to referral requirements if a student accrues the 10th or 15th unexcused absence within the final 10 days of a school year.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. There is no impact on the District's budget to change school absenteeism policies, annual student census requirements, and agency responsibilities with regards to school attendance.